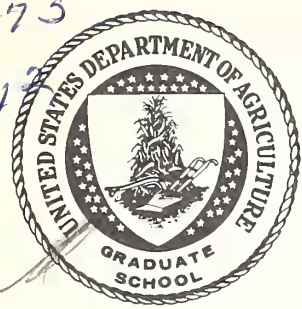


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GRADUATE SCHOOL

CONTINUING EDUCATION
FOR THE FEDERAL
COMMUNITY

Newsletter

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 1968

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| March 5, 1968 | Monthly Faculty Luncheon
Speaker: Dr. Louis Bright
Time: 12:15 p.m. Rm 6962 South Building |
| Lectures at Plant Industry Station, Beltsville | |
| February 20, 1968 | Speaker: Carl P. Swanson
Topic: Chromosomal Organization and the Control of Development |
| March 6, 1968 | Speaker: John G. Torrey
Topic: Cell Division in Relationship to Morphogenesis and Cytodifferentiation |
| March 15, 1968 | Speaker: Frederick C. Steward
Topic: From Cell to Plant: A Study of Development |

NEW HANDBOOK HIGHLIGHTS FACULTY LUNCHEON

At our February faculty luncheon, we broke out of our usual mold of a speaker-oriented meeting, and featured instead the introduction of our brand new Faculty Handbook -- plus table-discussions on classroom problems.

A discussion leader at each table got the exchanges of ideas, problems, and solutions underway -- and then reported on the results. Teachers and committee members leading these discussions included William R. Van Dersal, Charles E. Caudill, Samuel A. Kramer, Albert J. Nowotny, Charles V. P. Von Luttichau, V. Samuel Gunther, Victor Fields and Robert Fuchs.

Classroom facilities and space -- or the lack of it -- came in for much comment, as did the problem of students with widely varying abilities, experience, and education.

One group reported a discussion on how to challenge the student to put more of himself into a course. It was suggested that the teacher, during the first class, lay out exactly what will be covered in the course and what will be expected of the student. This tends to "shake out" students not suited to or truly interested in the course content.

Another group questioned whether or not course descriptions in the Graduate School catalog are accurate. It was pointed out that this is the responsibility of the instructor, and he should make sure his listing is up-to-date and as descriptive as possible. A suggestion was made that we explore some form of



DISCUSSION LEADERS -- These Graduate School teachers served as discussion leaders at the tables during our February faculty luncheon. Standing, left to right, are William R. Van Dersal, Robert Fuchs, and Victor Fields. Seated left to right, are Albert J. Nowotny, Samuel A. Kramer, Charles E. Caudill, and V. Samuel Gunther. Not pictured, but also serving as discussion leader, was Charles V. P. Von Luttichau.

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HANDBOOK PANEL -- Discussing the new Faculty Handbook, distributed at the February faculty luncheon, were, left to right, Hugh G. Pyle, Joseph M. Matthews, Edmund N. Fulker, Mary Louise Collings, and James McPherson.

pre-registration in order to more efficiently enroll the increasing number of evening students.

The grading system came in for comment, too, with some teachers suggesting that the traditional "A,B,C" system be replaced by a simple "pass-fail" system, at least for some subjects.

Another group asked for more opportunities such as this luncheon for teachers to get together and discuss the learning-teaching process.

Copies of the new Faculty Handbook were distributed to all attending the luncheon and a panel of faculty members largely responsible for the issuance of the handbook made some brief remarks about it.

Mary Louise Collings, who compiled the source materials for Part II of the Handbook, pointed out that this section is really too concise -- it doesn't cover everything -- but that the bibliography at the back of the book should prove valuable reference list for those who wish to explore this area further.

James McPherson, Chairman of the Committee on Academic Excellence, said that ideas for and comments on the Handbook are still very much in order -- this is just a first edition, which will be reviewed and revised from time to time.

These sentiments were reemphasized by Joseph M. Matthews, former Chairman of the Committee on Academic Excellence, who also expressed the satisfaction felt by committee members in seeing the Handbook published after much hard work on it.

Hugh G. Pyle, Special Assistant to the Graduate School Director, concluded the remarks with the hope that the Handbook would stimulate more of the type of discussions that featured the luncheon session. We have asked Mr. Pyle to reserve some of his time for teachers who may want to meet with him informally to talk about their teaching ideas and problems. He recently retired from the staff of the Adult Education Association and has a rich background in helping adults learn.

Teachers who have not received a copy of the Handbook, or would like to have an additional copy, should contact Miss Vera Jensen, Head of our Press, Information and Library Services, on DU8-4419, or write to her, care of the Graduate School, US Department of Agriculture, Washington DC 20250.

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OFF THE PRESS

Two new books have been published by the Graduate School Press and are now available through our Bookstore. One is "Land Use Principles, A Reading and Discussion Guide," by Ben Osborn, a Graduate School faculty member. It is priced at \$1.25.

The second is "Creative Federalism, Jump-McKillop Memorial Lectures/1966". This publication, which sells for \$2.75 in paperback and \$4.50, clothbound, features lectures on the Federal, State and Local Roles in government and among the speakers and reactors were: Senator Edmund S. Muskie, Robert C. Wood, John Anderson Jr., Mayor Jerome P. Cavanagh, James L. Sundquist, Ralph R. Widner, William G. Colman, Bernard Hillenbrand, Richard L. Steiner, Walter A. Scheiber, Frederick C. Belen and Charles Schwan.

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NEW TV COURSE PLANNED

Now under development, as a cooperative project by the Civil Service Commission, Washington's Educational Television station, WETA-TV, and the Graduate School, is a new television training course for secretaries. Norbert H. Nathanson, who has worked as a television director and producer, and is presently on leave from the Office of Education, HEW, is serving as the project director under contract with us. Assisting him is a new Graduate School staff member, Alice Barnhart. We hope to air this course in September.

We hope and expect this new TV course will rival our pioneering effort in this area, the TV course, "Success in Supervision," which is still being offered through WETA-TV, Channel 26. It may be seen on Mondays at 9:00 a.m. and Wednesdays at noon. In a visit to our offices in the National Press Building recently, I had to crawl over nine Post Office type mail bags filled with books and materials being sent to the current 130 enrollees in this course. Among them is a group of 66 at the Navy Ships Research and Development Center (formerly the David Taylor Model Basin). This group views the program, then gets together to discuss the telecast, books, and study materials. In producing our new TV course for secretaries we are working very closely with interested Federal departments and agencies.

Working with Mr. Nathanson, individuals and groups are assisting in producing the following:

- (1) A series of television presentations one half-hour in length and not to exceed fifteen in number.
- (2) Lesson Guides for discussion leaders who will prepare small groups for viewing the telecasts and lead discussion following the telecasts relating concepts and materials covered to their own agency needs and practices.
- (3) Student work manuals and materials.

Anyone wishing to help Mr. Nathanson should feel free to call him on DU8-7611 or Code 111 x 7611.

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NEW LIBRARIAN

John Sherrod, recently named Director of the National Agricultural Library, succeeding Foster E. Mohrhardt, who retired, also serves as Librarian for the Graduate School. We are delighted to have John with us in this position -- he's an old friend of the Graduate School and a teacher in our Evening School since 1958. He also originated and currently teaches a Special Program one-week course in Science Information and Communication. He comes to US Department of Agriculture from the Atomic Energy Commission, and formerly was associated with the Library of Congress.



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COMPUTER SCIENCES COURSES

On a recent Saturday, I fell behind a group of adults at the coffee machine. I controlled my mild frustration at having to wait when I suddenly realized that these were some of the 235 students attending our Saturday morning classes in the Computer Sciences. Their classes began January 6, 1968.

The next session of classes for the 47ADP courses will begin on March 23. Nominations for this session are due by March 1, but will be accepted after that date if class space is available. We began these Saturday morning classes last March in an attempt to meet increasing student needs in new ways and at new times. For some adults and teachers, Saturday mornings are a fine time to teach and learn.

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TRAINING FOR WORLD AGRICULTURAL CENSUS

Training here for a year in order to take part in the 1970 World Census of Agriculture is a group of 54 adult students from overseas. Our Special Programs Department is conducting six contract classes for them in economics, statistics, and data processing. With the aid of funds from the Agency for International Development, this project is being carried out cooperatively by the Census Bureau, the US Department of Agriculture, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

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WE'RE GROWING

Our increasing size, complexity, and number of services keeps us exploring more systematic, efficient, and effective policies and procedures in support

of our teachers in their attempts to meet the needs of our varied adult student body, drawn from throughout government.

Our Registrar's educational statistics report of last year showed 22,305 course enrollments in more than 900 evening, day, and correspondence courses, taught by a faculty of nearly 500 part-time teachers.

Our students range from GS-1 to GS-18 and include an occasional Congressman, military officers and enlisted men, State, county and local government employees, spouses and children of government employees. Ages range from under 20 to over 70. The majority are in ages 30-50. More than half of our students hold a BA degree or higher, and quite a few have LL.B, and PhD degrees. No wonder our teachers and students say they learn a lot from each other.

We've just completed registration for the Spring semester of evening classes. By the end of the first week, more than 40 classes had to be closed to further enrollment. Enrollments totalled between 6,500 and 7,000.

To support these services our Business Office issued nearly 8000 checks last year to faculty, staff, publishers and other suppliers.

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DO IT YOURSELF

"The trouble with this life," someone once said, "is that it is half over before you realize it is a 'do it yourself' program."

As many of you know through first-hand experience, the Graduate School is very much a "do it yourself" institution.

This has been brought more pointedly to my attention in the two months I have been serving as Acting Director while John Holden is on sabbatical leave.

Did you know that we conduct evening classes in some sixty different buildings in and around Washington?

These include, of course, our home base at USDA where the greatest number of courses are held. This spring we are using high schools in the District and in Maryland, a private home, an art studio, and government buildings widely scattered in the downtown and suburban areas -- not to mention evening courses held in Atlantic City in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Agency.

Thank goodness many of our teachers are "do it yourselfers" in carrying and supplying their own chalk, movie projectors, tape recorders, and other audio-visual aids. We hope you will continue to "do it yourself" but we want you to call on us when you need to. Consult and use our new Faculty Handbook -- this, too, we did ourselves.

Sincerely,

Edmund N. Fulker

Edmund N. Fulker
Acting Director.